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As a practical hand-book for lawyers and as a road to the adoption of rules that shall be the "ministrant tools" instead of the "tyrannous masters" of our judges, the Pocket Code of Evidence will prove itself of great value. But, as Mr. Wigmore in his admirable preface reminds us, it is, after all, "the spirit that gives life to the rules." "What the Law of Evidence, and of Procedure, nowadays most needs is that the men who are our judges shall firmly dispose themselves to get at the truth and the merits of the case before them. Until they become of this disposition and spirit, the mere body of rules, however scientific, however sensible, however apt for justice, will minister to them in vain."

H. E.

BIOGRAPHICAL STORY OF THE CONSTITUTION—A STUDY OF THE GROWTH OF THE AMERICAN UNION. By Edward Elliott. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1910.

The history of the American Constitution, from either a historical or legal point of view, does not in the average instance attract the lay mind. It is too intimately bound up with such troublesome doctrines as nullification, secession and state sovereignty, to appeal to one who is neither a student nor a scholar. No gleam of interest is awakened in the bosom of the general reading public by a discussion of the implied powers, or of the question, does the constitution follow the flag?

In the present instance, however, the author has gone far towards affording a readable and instructive account of the general development of the nation's fundamental document. As is suggested by the title, the book is not a technical legal work. It wisely refrains from any claim to completeness or exhaustiveness. In twelve chapters the author treats of as many prominent men in our constitutional history, and their influence on the trend of constitutional interpretation. It is most interestingly done, due perhaps to the fact that the personal element is much in evidence and the reader is made to feel the intensity and sincerity with which opposing constitutional doctrines were maintained by their respective advocates. However, the method of treatment has its disadvantages, as the reader is left with the impression that this is a government of men, not of laws, a feeling that is, perhaps, justified by the subject of the last chapter.

The basic note that runs through the book is the struggle to discover the nature of the union between the several states. The bitterness of the contention on this point, and the difficulty of its solution, are admirably brought out, and the reader feels no small thrill of patriotism when he reaches the point where the War of the Rebellion concluded the difference and proved that the union was a unit.

An appendix contains the documents most intimately connected with the growth of the union, and affords an opportunity for the most valuable kind of study on the subject of the work, that of the original sources.

E. S. B.